

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0650

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4 IMPDET
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, SHUM, UY
SUBJECT: PARTICIPANT IN RECENT GOU MEETINGS FORESEES POSITIVE
MOVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: MONTEVIDEO 356

1. SUMMARY. JOSE ARANEO, MINISTER-COUNSELOR OF URUGUAY'S OAS MISSION, WHO PARTICIPATED IN HIGH LEVEL GOU DISCUSSIONS RE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., TOLD EMBOFF THAT MOST LIKELY OUTCOME OF TALKS WOULD BE POSITIVE ONES IN HUMAN RIGHTS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT MILITARY HAD BEEN DISSUADED FROM ANY COURSE OF ACTION SMACKING OF REPRISAL FOR RECENT U.S. MOVES THEY REGARDED AS CONCERTED, PUNITIVE MOVES AGAINST GOU. HIS INFO COINCIDES WITH THAT RECEIVED TO DATE FROM OTHER SOURCES. END SUMMARY.

2. URUGUAY'S MINISTER-COUNSELOR AT THE OAS, JOSE ARANEO, TOLD AN EMBOFF ON FEBRUARY 14 THAT HE BELIEVES AMBASSADORS PEREZ CALDAS AND GIAMBRUNO AND HE HAVE CONVINCED THE "INTELLIGENT" MILITARY THAT ANGER, FRUSTRATION AND REVENGE ARE USELESS AND THAT THE ONLY SENSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE U.S. (AND OTHER COUNTRIES) IS TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN URUGUAY. IT WAS ARANEO'S BELIEF THAT AS A RESULT OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS, THE GOU WOULD FOLLOW UP ON MINISTER DARRACQ'S STATEMENT TO THE OAS COUNCIL FOR EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND CULTURE (MONTEVIDEO 485) WITH
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LISTS OF PRISONERS AND/OR RELEASES AND A GENERAL LIBERALIZATION OF THE SYSTEM UNDER WHICH SUBVERSIVES ARE HANDLED. WHEN ASKED IF THIS MIGHT INCLUDE A VISIT BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, ARANEO SAID POSSIBLY, BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY, AS ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE TO BE CORRECTED PRIOR TO ANY SUCH VISIT.

3. ARANEO ALSO REPORTED "ABYSMAL" IGNORANCE MONG THE MILITARY WITH RESPECT TO THE U.S. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY INTEND TO SEND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL QUIEROLO TO WASHINGTON, PROBABLY TO REPLACE BRIG. JAUME AT THE IADB, IN ORDER TO HAVE A STRONG MILITARY MAN THERE, APPARENTLY BELIEVING HE COULD CONVINCE THE PENTAGON TO USE ITS POWER TO CHANGE U.S. POLICY VIS-A-VIS URUGUAY. EMBOFF SAID HE HAD HEARD MILITARY BELIEVED WHOLE USG FOCUSING ON URUGUAY TO WHICH ARANEO REPLIED THAT THIS DEMONSTRATED THEIR IGNORANCE OF THE USG, A BUREAUCRACY SO BIG IT COULD NEVER FOCUS ON ANYTHING THE SIZE OF URUGUAY. ARANEO BELIEVES THE THREE, HE, PEREZ CALDAS AND GIAMBRUNO HAVE DISABUSED THE TOP MILITARY OF SOME OF THEIR ERRONEOUS IDEAS, INITIALLY AT SOME PREJUDICE TO THEMSELVES BUT FROM WHICH THEY RECOVERED AS TIME WENT BY.

4. RERETURNING TO HUMAN RIGHTS, ARANEO SAID HE FOUND THE SITUATION MUCH BETTER THAN PAINTED ABROAD, BUT NOT AS GOOD AS HE, A LAWYER, WOULD WANT. HE HAD LEARNED THAT MILITARY OFFICERS HAD BEEN BROKEN IN RANK AND OTHERWISE PUNISHED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ASKED FOR CONCRETE EXAMPLES. HE WAS TOLD THEY WERE MILITARY SECRETS AND CLAIMED TO HAVE TOLD THE MILITARY THAT IT WAS PRECISELY SUCH NONSENSE THAT LEFT THEM HELPLESS IN DEFENDING URUGUAY ABROAD.

5. COMMENT: THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ARANEO COINCIDES WITH THAT COMING FROM OTHER SOURCES INVOLVED IN THE GOU REVIEW OF RELATIONS

WITH THE U.S. SEPTEL ON OUTCOME OF THAT REVIEW AND OUR ANALYSIS
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THEREOF WILL FOLLOW. EVEN THOUGH HE WAS TALKING TO AN EMBOFF HE HAS KNOWN WELL FOR SOME YEARS, ARANEO REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES HIS DESIRE TO BE PROTECTED AS SOURCE.
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